AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (Previously Presented) A communications network arrangement providing voice over IP
2   or voice over ATM services, the network arrangement comprising:
3   a first media gateway controller configured to control a first media gateway, wherein the
4   first media gateway controller is provided with a first operating protocol,
5   a second media gateway controller configured to control a second media gateway,
6   wherein the second media gateway controller is provided with a second, different operating
7   protocol,
8   a computer, and
9   a gateway address translator executable in the computer and incorporating proxies for
10   said first and second media gateways respectively, wherein each of the proxies in said gateway
11   address translator is configured to receive a control message from a respective one of said first
12   and second media gateway controllers, and in response to the control message, forward the
13   control message to a corresponding one of the first and second media gateways, and
14   wherein the gateway address translator is configured to provide a virtual bearer function
15   for messaging between said first and second media gateway controllers.

1   2.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein
2   said gateway address translator comprises virtual gateways, one for each of said first and second
3   media gateway controllers, wherein the virtual gateways are configured to provide the virtual
4   bearer function for messaging between said first and second media gateway controllers.

1   3.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 2, wherein
2   signaling communication between said first and second media gateway controllers is provided
3   via a signalling network.

1   4.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 3, wherein
2   said signalling network comprises a Common Channel Signaling 7 network.

2

1   5.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 2 wherein

2   said computer comprises a non-transitory machine readable storage medium storing software of

3   said gateway address translator.

1   6.   (Cancelled)

1   7.   (Currently Amended) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein at

2   least one of said first and second media gateway controllers is ~~constituted by~~ implemented in a

3   distributed ~~media gateway controller pair providing separate~~ architecture in which a first

4   processor performs ingress processing and a second processor performs egress

5   ~~functions~~ processing.

1   8.   (Currently Amended) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein at

2   least one of said first and second media gateway controllers is ~~constituted by~~ implemented as a

3   soft switch.

1   9.-10.   (Cancelled)

1   11.   (Currently Amended) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein one

2   of the first and second media gateway controllers is ~~provided as part of~~ included in said

3   computer.

1   12.-15. (Cancelled)

1   16.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein

2   the first media gateway controller is provisioned with an address of a first one of the proxies

3   instead of an address of the first media gateway, and wherein the second media gateway

4   controller is provisioned with an address of a second one of the proxies instead of an address of

5   the second media gateway.

1   17.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[9]]23, wherein a first one of the ~~gateway~~

2   proxies is configured to communicate with the first media gateway controller using the first

3   operating protocol, and a second one of the ~~gateway~~ proxies is configured to communicate with

4   the second media gateway controller using the second operating protocol, wherein an address of

5   the first ~~gateway~~ proxy rather than an address of the first <u>media</u> gateway is provisioned at the

6   first media gateway controller, and an address of the second ~~gateway~~ proxy rather than an

7   address of the second <u>media</u> gateway is provisioned at the second media gateway controller.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[12]]24, wherein the first media gateway

2   controller is provisioned with an address of [[a]]<u>the</u> first ~~one of the proxies~~ <u>proxy</u> instead of an

3   address of the first media gateway, and wherein the second media gateway controller is

4   provisioned with an address of [[a]]<u>the</u> second ~~one of the proxies~~ <u>proxy</u> instead of an address of

5   the second media gateway.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) The non-transitory machine-readable storage medium of claim

2   [[15]]26, wherein the first media gateway controller is provisioned with an address of [[a]]<u>the</u>

3   first ~~one of the proxies~~ <u>proxy</u> instead of an address of the first <u>media</u> gateway, and wherein the

4   second media gateway controller is provisioned with an address of [[a]]<u>the</u> second ~~one of the~~

5   ~~proxies~~ <u>proxy</u> instead of an address of the second <u>media</u> gateway.

4

1   20.   (Previously Presented) The communications network arrangement of claim 1, wherein in

2   response to receiving the control message from said first media gateway controller, a first of said

3   proxies is configured to:

4   substitute, in the control message, an address of said first media gateway controller with

5   an address of the first proxy, and

6   forward the control message containing the address of the first proxy to the first media

7   gateway.

1   21.   (Cancelled)

1   22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[12]]24, further comprising:

2   ~~receiving, by a first of the proxies, a first control message from the first media gateway~~

3   ~~controller;~~

4   the first proxy substituting, in the first control message, an address of the first media

5   gateway controller with an address of the first proxy;

6   wherein the first proxy forwarding the first control message comprises sending the first

7   control message containing the address of the first proxy to the first media gateway;

8   ~~receiving, by a second of the proxies, a second control message from the second media~~

9   ~~gateway controller;~~

10   the second proxy substituting, in the second control message, an address of the second

11   media gateway controller with an address of the second proxy; and

12   wherein the second proxy forwarding the second control message comprises sending the

13   second control message containing the address of the second proxy to the second gateway.

1   23.   (New) A system comprising:

2   a first media gateway controller configured to control a first media gateway, wherein the

3   first media gateway controller is provided with a first operating protocol;

4   a second media gateway controller configured to control a second media gateway,

5   wherein the second media gateway controller is provided with a second, different operating

6   protocol;

7   a computer configured to:

8   perform address translation and provide proxies for said first media gateway and

9   said second media gateway, wherein the address translation substitutes, in a message, an address

10   of one of the proxies in place of an address of a corresponding one of the first and second media

11   gateway controllers;

12   provide virtual gateways for respective ones of said first and second media

13   gateway controllers, wherein said virtual gateways perform virtual bearer messaging between

14   said first media gateway controller and said second media gateway controller;

15   relay messages between said first media gateway controller and said first media

16   gateway; and

17   relay messages between said second media gateway controller and said second

18   media gateway.

1 24.   (New) A method comprising:

2   receiving, by a computer, a first control message from a first media gateway controller

3 configured to control a first media gateway, wherein the first control message is according to a

4 first operating protocol;

5   in response to the first control message, a first proxy in the computer forwarding the first

6 control message to the first media gateway;

7   receiving, by the computer, a second control message from a second media gateway

8 controller configured to control a second media gateway, wherein the second control message is

9 according to a second operating protocol;

10   in response to the second control message, a second proxy in the computer forwarding

11 the second control message to the second media gateway; and

12   relaying, by the computer, a third message between the first and second media gateway

13 controllers to provide virtual bearer messaging between the first and second media gateway

14 controllers.

1 25.   (New) A communication network arrangement comprising:

2   a plurality of media gateways;

3   a plurality of media gateway controllers, wherein each media gateway controller is

4 configured to control a corresponding one of the media gateways, wherein said media gateway

5 controllers are to employ different operating protocols to communicate with the corresponding

6 media gateways, wherein each of said media gateway controllers and the corresponding one of

7 the media gateways form a respective pair that communicate using a corresponding one of the

8 operating protocols; and

9   a computer configured to perform gateway address translation between each paired media

10 gateway and media gateway controller, wherein said computer is configured to further perform

11 virtual bearer messaging between said plurality of media gateway controllers.

1   26.   (New) A non-transitory machine-readable storage medium storing instructions that when

2   executed cause a computer to perform:

3   receiving a first control message from a first media gateway controller configured to

4   control a first media gateway, wherein the first control message is according to a first operating

5   protocol;

6   in response to the first control message, a first proxy in the computer forwarding the first

7   control message to the first media gateway;

8   receiving a second control message from a second media gateway controller configured

9   to control a second media gateway, wherein the second control message is according to a second

10   operating protocol;

11   in response to the second control message, a second proxy in the computer forwarding

12   the second control message to the second media gateway; and

13   relaying a third message between the first and second media gateway controllers to

14   provide virtual bearer messaging between the first and second media gateway controllers.